



2000 Hwy 78 N, Wylie, Texas 75098
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie

Public Information Office

EDITORIAL

For Connection Magazine

November 21, 2012

Media Contact: Craig Kelly, Public Information Officer
Ph: 972.442.8122
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

125th Anniversary and Historical Society

Wylie officially turned 125 years old on Thursday, November 8. To mark this milestone, Mayor Eric Hogue read the original paper of incorporation on the steps of the Birmingham House.

Whereas at an election held in the town of Wylie Collin County Texas on the eighth day of November 1887 for the purpose of determining whether or not said town should be incorporated. There were (42) forty two votes polled for Corporation and (6) six votes cast for no Corporation.

On December 6, 1887, Howard Pickett was elected the first Mayor of Wylie. By 1890, Wylie's population increased to 239, and a one-room schoolhouse was built. Wylie enjoyed the self-proclaimed "Onion Capital of the World" title in the 30's and 40's. And in the late 40's and 50's "Wide Awake Wylie" became our City's nickname due to businesses staying open until midnight on many nights to serve our citizens.

Today, Wylie is one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Texas. Wylie's population has increased from 15,132 in 2000 to more than 43,000-- a growth rate of 184%!

"Our community has a rich, celebrated history," says Mayor Eric Hogue. "The same sense of community, pride, heart and hard work that brought 42 people together to vote to incorporate on November 8, 1887, is evident today in the more than 43,000 vibrant residents that call Wylie home." As Wylie celebrates its 125 year history, there is a renewed sense of urgency to protect that "rich, celebrated history", including buildings, cemeteries, photos, documents, and stories, before growth and development cause much to be lost. In response to this call, a local group formed in July 2011 dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage in Wylie.

The Wylie Historical Society's mission is to promote public awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the history and traditions of the City of Wylie and its predecessors through educational programs; collect, preserve, conserve, interpret, and exhibit materials relating to the City of Wylie and its region; preserve and protect buildings and sites of historic interest in the Wylie area; mark places of historic interest with suitable monuments and markers; and serve as a clearing house for other organizations interested in the history of Wylie.

Carole Lowe, Vice Chair of the Collin County Historical Commission and Wylie Historical Society Director, says the time is now to preserve Wylie's rich history. The Smith Public Library's trained archivists are ready to collect historical photos and documents. These precious pieces of history will be archived, securely stored, and scanned for future digital access. There is also an option to temporarily loan artifacts to the Historical Society for scanning and archiving. Historical photos and

documents stored in closets, attics or storage units can be easily lost through fire, misplaced in moves or simply forgotten by future generations. Do not miss this opportunity to preserve our past.

The Wylie Historical Society meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Smith Public Library, 300 Country Club Road, at 3:00 pm. Both Wylie residents and non-residents are welcome to join this growing organization. Go to sites.google.com/site/wyliehistoricalsociety/ for more information and to contact the Wylie Historical Society. To donate items to the Historical Society please call the Smith Public Library at 972-516-6250, or stop by the library and ask for Library Director Rachel Orozco.

Pullout Boxes:

New Members Wanted:

- Record oral histories of long time residents
- Organize papers and photos to archive
- Provide outreach programs for the public
- Continue research on the history of Wylie
- Record historic sites on the county historic asset map
- Secure donated materials.

Quote:

“The Time is Now to Preserve Wylie’s Rich History.” Carole Lowe, Collin County Historical Commission

Wylie’s rich history (Picture of Mural)

From our founding on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway, to being known as the onion capital of the world, to the annual pedal car race, this 60’ X 10’ mural titled “Wide Awake Wylie” by artists Roger and Karen Nitz, vividly depicts the history of Wylie. Roger Nitz summed up his passion for this project on the dedication plaque, “Its hope is to remind the community of the seeds planted by the past and the collective nurturing it takes to bring a community together.” The mural was commissioned by the City of Wylie and Public Arts Advisory Board to commemorate the 125th anniversary.